



From Behind the Service Counter

Let's talk a bit about email....

Once upon a time when emailing was young, Microsoft's Outlook Express only had a folder size limit of 2Gb. Then, that seemed to be a lot but who knew that emailing would become so popular? If necessity is the mother of invention, then email has long ago become a necessary part of our lives. Nowadays the newer programs no longer have limitations so progress is good!

First a bit of quick background: every email program is set up differently but email generally comes in as three separate chunks of data, a **header** with the subject, sender's name, date and time received, who to reply-to, who the recipient is and the recipient's email address, the **body** which is the message part you input and **attachments** that are separate files that can be added. Your email program brings these components altogether into one screen for your viewing pleasure but when the program doesn't appear to work properly it may actually be because one of those components has become corrupt.

Email is typically handled in one of two ways, either by webmail (online through the internet) or by using an email client, which downloads your email from your provider to your computer.

Programs such as Outlook, Outlook Express (not the same as Outlook!), Thunderbird, Incredimail, Windows Mail, Windows Live Mail and so on, are email clients and remove your email from your provider's server so you can take sole control of it. Programs such as Hotmail, Gmail, Yahoo and all the other local provider on-line webmail services keep your email on your provider's server until you delete them. If your account gets too big because you save all your emails, you may receive a message telling you to delete and clean up your account or purchase more server space. Most home users could care less which type they use as long as it works.

Practically speaking, downloading your email may be of very minor advantage but I personally like to have control of my personal data.

Now I'm not paranoid, I just like the idea of knowing that my data is available to me and only to me.

...and then there are the viruses (sigh).

Have a merry Christmas and enjoy your new computer toys!

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